Cashew industry

620. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cashew industry is heavily dependent on import of cashew nuts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any scheme for development of cashew plantation;

(d) whether Government propose to give any financial assistance to the States for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of domestic production and import of raw cashew nut for the last three years is as indicated below:

(in lakh MT)

Year	Domestic Production	Imports
2001-02	4.70	3.56
2002-03	5.00	4.01
2003-04	5.35	4.52

(Source: DAC)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing centrally sponsored scheme on "Macro management in Agriculture Supplementation/ Complementation of States' efforts through work plan". A programme on 'Integrated development of Cashew and Cocoa' is being implemented since October 2000. Under this programme, assistance is provided for establishment of regional nurseries, area expansion, productivity improvement, technology dissemination, farmers participatory demonstration-cum-training and infrastructure for processing and marketing.